

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-7, 26-32, and 69-77 are pending. Claims 8-25 and 33-63 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1-63 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 69-77 are now presented for examination.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Van Brunt, et al.

Claims 1-5 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,485,488 of Van Brunt, et al. ("Van Brunt").

Claims 1-5 and 26-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is submitted that this rejection no longer applies to claims pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 69-77 have been allowed. Claims 6, 7, 31 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Because claims 67-77 contain the subject matter of claims 6, 7, 31, and 32 and intervening claims, claims 6, 7, 31 and 32 are hereby cancelled.

To put the claims in the present prosecution in condition for allowance, claims 8-25 and 33-63, which were withdrawn based upon the restriction requirement presented in this application, are hereby cancelled without prejudice, retaining the right to submit such claims in one or more divisional applications.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the Amendment and Remark, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objections and rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$950.00 is enclosed to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

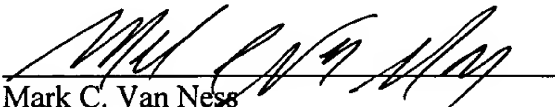
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 6/8/04


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